

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5513

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJ: STRAWS IN WIND ON YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP HIERARCHY

1. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD CHARGE' FEB 4 THAT DURING RECENT TITO-KREISKY TALKS AT BRDO KOD KRANJ, WHICH AMBASSADOR ATTENDED, TITO HAD BEEN EXTREMELY DEFERENTIAL TO KARDELJ. NOT ONLY DID TITO OFTEN ASK KARDELJ TO REPLY TO KREISKY'S QUESTIONS, BUT SOMETIMES KARDELJ AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE WOULD INTERJECT ANSWERS OR MAKE POINTS IN THE CONVERSATION.
2. IN TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM EVENING FEB 4 LISTING CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF BLOZO JOVANOVIC THE RANK ORDER OF NAMES OF THOSE SENDING MESSAGES WAS TITO, KARDELJ, BAKARIC, DOLANC AND GLIGOROV.
3. AS A FOOTNOTE, THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT TITO SMOKED SIX CIGARS IN FOUR HOURS DURING THE KREISKY TALKS AND AN AIDE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TOLD HIM THAT HIS USUAL CONSUMPTION WAS 15-20 CIGARS PER DAY. SWEITZER

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